

[19 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Age Pension Scheme under the National Social Assistance Programme and (iv) Annapurna Scheme.

(b) The schemes mentioned above are for the whole country and there are no separate scheme(s) for any particular State(s). Under the scheme (i) above, the Central Government is giving grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations for establishing and running of Old age Homes, Day Care Centers and Mobile Medical Units for older persons. Under the scheme (ii) above, the Central Government is giving a one time grant-in-aid up to Rs. 30.00 lakhs to voluntary organizations/Panchayat Raj Institutions/Self help groups for construction of Old Age Homes and Multi Service Units for older persons. Under the scheme (iii) above, the Central Government is providing Rs.75/- per month per head for destitute elderly persons of 65 years and above. Under the scheme (iv) above, the Central Government is providing 10 Kg of food grains per month free of cost to those senior citizens who though eligible have remained uncovered under the National Old Age Pension Scheme.

(c) On the request of this Ministry, the Chief Justices of India has already advised the Chief Justice of All High Courts in the country to ensure expeditious disposal of cases involving older persons.

#### **Continuance of animal performance in circus**

2488. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the ban, animals continue to perform in circus;

(b) why Government have not sent a single animal to the rescue Centre; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to implement the law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) The government has no such information that they are still performing. The following animals are prohibited to be exhibited

or trained as performing animals with effect from 14.10.1998:—

1. Bears 2. Monkeys 3. Tigers 4. Panthers 5. Lions

(b) Eleven lions belonging to a circus in Karnataka have already been sent to rescue centre at Bannerghatta, Karnataka.

(c) No, Sir.

**Crisis in domestic steel industry due to dumping of substandard steel**

†2489. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic Steel industry is in acute crisis because of the dumping of substandard steel in the country;

(b) the efforts being made to overcome the recession;

(c) whether production has been affected as a result thereof; and

(d) the quantum of steel production this year as compared to the last year alongwith the target fixed for the same for next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The dumping of substandard steel in the country has affected the domestic steel industry adversely by putting downward pressure on the domestic prices and thus affecting the profitability of the Indian Iron & Steel producers.

(b) Several measures have been taken to overcome the sluggish growth of demand for steel in the country. These inter alia include:

— High allocation for infrastructure & housing projects to generate demand for steel, launching of a National Campaign for increasing the demand of steel, especially in non-traditional sectors, such as rural and agro based industrial sector has been launched.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.